

Education Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



4,919 Employers



225,019 Workers



\$53,697 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Education?

Education professionals are preparing today's students to be tomorrow's workforce. The Education industry has nearly 5,000 employers in both the public and private sector that provide jobs to over 225,000 workers. Wages in this industry averaged \$53,697 in 2024. Employment increased an average of 0.6 percent per year from 2019 to 2024, adding a total of 6,576 jobs. Education represents 7.8 percent of all public and private sector employment.

From Office Support to Instructors and Administrators, there are various job opportunities in the Education sector. High wages and projected growth make Education occupations a good career choice in Instruction, Support Services, Professional Support Services, and Administrative & Business Support.

Know the Basics

Most employees in the Education sector interact with students and others on a daily basis, so being able to communicate effectively, both individually and in groups, is necessary. The ability to work with co-workers as a team is also important. For instructors, knowledge of subject matter, the ability to adapt teaching methods and materials to meet students' needs, and the ability to evaluate students' work and progress are important. Durable, or soft, skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries, including Education.

Skills needed for Success:

There are several ways to become a certified educator in Missouri. In addition to the traditional route of completing student teaching and receiving a bachelor's degree in the field of education, there are alternative routes to certification available. An individual with a bachelor's degree in a content area, such as Mathematics or English, can return to a college of education for a program of study that may enable them to take courses and teach simultaneously. In certain middle and high school subjects, an individual with a bachelor's degree can complete a program of study from the American Board of Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), pass their specific test, and be certified. Current certified teachers can also add new areas of certification by taking Missouri Area Content Exams.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Washington University
University of Missouri
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Missouri State University
Local School Districts



Instruction

Professional Support Services

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Childcare Workers

Entry: \$28,180 Average: \$31,920

Library Assistants, Clerical

Entry: \$28,540 Average: \$31,980

Certificates: Child Care Provider/Assistant

Skills: Library Resources; Customer Service; Clerical Duties

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary

Entry: \$25,580 Average: \$33,080

Library Technicians

Entry: \$34,810 Average: \$38,580

Preschool Teachers, except Special Education

Entry: \$29,440 Average: \$38,230

Occupational Therapy Assistants

Entry: \$56,440 Average: \$62,990

Physical Therapist Assistants

Entry: \$54,330 Average: \$62,610

Certificates: Child Care and Support Services Management

Degrees: Early Childhood Education and Teaching

Degrees: Occupational Therapist Assistant; Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Elementary School Teachers

Entry: \$45,660 Average: \$54,470

Instructional Coordinators

Entry: \$52,950 Average: \$70,920

Secondary School Teachers

Entry: \$46,150 Average: \$58,640

Registered Nurses

Entry: \$66,830 Average: \$81,950

Special Education Teachers, Secondary School

Entry: \$46,170 Average: \$57,160

Librarians and Media Collection Specialists

Entry: \$42,730 Average: \$55,210

Degrees: Teacher Education; Special Education and Teaching; Elementary Education

Degrees: Nursing; Curriculum and Instruction; Library Science; Psychology

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2025 online job ads



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Support Services

Administrative & Business Operations

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Janitors and Cleaners, except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners

Entry: \$29,590 Average: \$35,500

Food Preparation Workers

Entry: \$28,410 Average: \$32,550

Security Guards

Entry: \$35,920 Average: \$45,880

Certificates: Truck and Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operator; Certified Protection Officer

General Office Clerks

Entry: \$33,920 Average: \$44,200

Receptionists & Information Clerks

Entry: \$30,370 Average: \$35,850

Data Entry Keyers

Entry: \$32,300 Average: \$43,380

Certificates: Business Administration Certificates

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General

Entry: \$38,830 Average: \$51,360

Food Service Managers

Entry: \$56,840 Average: \$67,150

First-Line Supervisor of Housekeeping & Janitorial Workers

Entry: \$36,220 Average: \$45,550

Certificates: Restaurant; Culinary; and Catering Management/Manager

Certificates: Building Maintenance; ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification

Human Resources Assistants

Entry: \$40,190 Average: \$48,480

Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks

Entry: \$39,130 Average: \$51,050

Computer User Support Specialists

Entry: \$41,910 Average: \$57,640

Degrees: Business Administration & Management; Accounting; Computer Science

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

General & Operations Managers

Entry: \$51,050 Average: \$101,060

General & Operations Managers

Entry: \$51,050 Average: \$101,060

Human Resources Specialists

Entry: \$49,050 Average: \$70,430

Degrees: Business Administration & Management

Degrees: Business Administration & Management; Human Resources Development

Sources: Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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